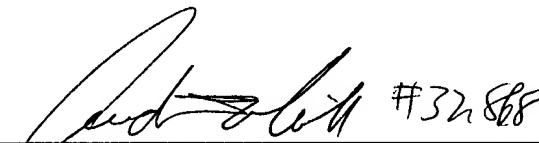


- ☐ Petition for () month(s) extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). \$0.00 for the extension of time.
- ☒ No fee is required.
- ☐ Check(s) in the amount of \$0.00 is(are) enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$0.00. This form is submitted in triplicate.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #32868
for Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

KLR
RCS/KLR:gmh
0032-0254P

P.O. Box 747
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Attachment(s)

(Rev. 02/08/2004)



Corres. and Mail
BOX AF

AF/1651 IFW

MS AF
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1651

PATENT
0032-0254P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al. Conf.: 7526
Appl. No.: 09/530,013 Group: 1651
Filed: April 24, 2000 Examiner: R. Gitomer
For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF BRAIN
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING THE
USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR COATED WITH SILICONE
OR PLASTICS (As Amended).

REPLY AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 25, 2004

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 14, 2004, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.